

Courses of Study.

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Holidays are departing, and with them the opportunities for refreshment of mind and increase of knowledge that they bring. Perhaps Summer School has whetted our appetite for learning, and made us envy those who can give all their time to study, or those who live within reach of lectures, classes and libraries. We think ruefully how little we know, how far we are from having that "affluence of knowledge" which has been said to be a teacher's first requisite. And it is not only in order to gain knowledge that a teacher needs to be continually learning. To be meeting with problems which stretch our minds to their full capacity, to be making mistakes and blunders, to be finding out that the foundations of our knowledge are, perhaps, insecure, to be laying ourselves open to criticism and correction—in short, to be in the position of a pupil—will give a freshness of understanding and sympathy for our own pupils that can be gained in no other way.

Now, while these feelings are stirring us, and before we settle down to the routine of the school-room, is the time to make plans for our own study. Many ways will be found open to those who really have the will, and suggestions and information about a few of these ways may be timely.

I shall speak of first: Correspondence courses offered by universities, and leading, if desired, to a degree or diploma. Secondly, courses of study or reading, planned by competent advisers, who suggest books, and furnish more or less assistance to the student. Thirdly, some plans for forming reading clubs, and for private reading.

The University of Chicago takes the lead in the range and value of courses offered to home students. In the announcements for 1912-13, there are forty-six subjects, offered for correspondence study, and in most of these, one can choose from many courses; *e. g.*, twenty-six courses in English, thirty-one in Mathematics, twenty-seven in Latin.

In twelve of these subjects, instruction of high school grade is given. These courses are intended to meet the needs of students who wish to prepare at home for college entrance. For admission to the University of Chicago, all the preparatory work may be done by correspondence.

A certificate is granted for any course satisfactorily completed. College courses satisfactorily completed and passed by examination give credit

towards a degree, but no degree is granted for work done wholly in absence. A minimum of one year's work in residence is required for any degree.

No preliminary examination or proof of previous work is required of those who enter for correspondence study.

The formal courses are of two lengths. A "major" course has usually about forty lessons; a "minor" course about half that number. Work may be begun at any time.

From twelve to fifteen months is allowed to the correspondence student to finish whatever number of courses he undertakes, and extension of time will be granted upon good reason being shown. On the other hand a student is allowed to finish his courses as rapidly as is consistent with good work.

Every correspondence course is intended to be equivalent to the corresponding regular course. Each lesson contains directions for study, suggestions, and test questions. The answers to the questions and any theme work required are mailed to the instructor, who returns them with criticisms, suggestions, and explanations of difficulties.

Queen's University, Kingston, also gives instruction to non-resident students, and the work is made as nearly as possible identical with that taken up in the regular course.

Correspondence students may, if they choose, work continuously, as instruction is given during the summer, as well as throughout the regular sessions of college. They must, however, begin work either in October or May, and take the regular examinations in April or September, and work must be completed and sent in for correction at fixed times. For the winter session, October 21st is the last day for registration, and students are strongly advised to register not later than October 1st.

In order to obtain a degree, correspondence students must either (a) attend classes in residency for at least one full session, or (b) must attend four sessions of the Summer Schools, and there take classes in four different departments. The Summer School is held at the College for six weeks in July and August. Examinations may be taken at local centres in all the provinces. The centres in New Brunswick are St. John, Chatham, Fredericton and Campbellton.

If a degree is not desired, or the conditions for it cannot be fulfilled, a student who has done three-